

# CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

APRIL 18, 2022

## Current Conditions

- The water year that ended Sept. 30 was the second driest on record. All of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation.
- January, February and March 2022 were the driest on record dating back over 100 years, logging just six inches of precipitation across the Sierra Nevada. That is less than half the precipitation accumulated in the first three months of 2013, which had been the driest in the observed record.
- Statewide precipitation for the water year to date is 72 percent of average. Sierra-Cascades snowpack for the water year to date is 31 percent of average, up from 21 percent last week. Statewide reservoir storage is 70 percent of average for this time of year.
- Californians are being asked to reduce their water use by 15 percent over 2020 levels to protect water reserves and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife wherever possible.
- As of April 18, the state's voluntary household dry well reporting system received reports of 29 dry wells in the past 30 days. Eleven dry wells were reported in Fresno County alone. Dry wells were also reported in Butte, Kings, Lake, Madera, Plumas, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sonoma, Tehama and Tulare counties.

The California Drought Update is a weekly roundup of conditions, state actions and upcoming developments. It is produced by an interagency team that includes the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Public Health. For the latest on drought, please visit [www.drought.ca.gov](http://www.drought.ca.gov). For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com).



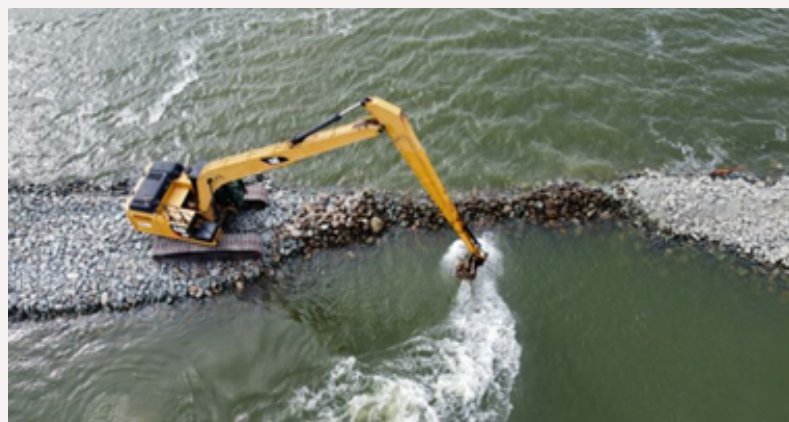
## Recent Events and State Actions

**Water conservation press event (April 14):** California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot joined Valley Water officials in Alviso for a press event urging Californians to conserve water. The event highlighted that California experienced the driest January, February and March on record, and encouraged Californians to do their part to reduce water use, especially outdoors.



**Influencer briefing (April 14):** The Governor joined the directors of DWR and CDFW and the chair of the State Water Board for a briefing with more than a dozen social media influencers and content creators, calling on them to support Save Our Water's statewide education efforts. "Make no mistake, California and the entire West are feeling the effects of the intensifying drought – notwithstanding today's rainfall," said Governor Newsom. "We're putting to work the lessons learned during the last drought, but with our climate getting hotter and drier, it's critical that we work together to protect our water supply. Engaging Californians from all walks of life and connecting peer to peer, we can meet this challenge head-on."

**DWR finishes drought salinity barrier in Delta (April 13):** DWR closed the emergency drought salinity barrier across West False River in the Delta that was notched January to allow fish and boat passage. The contractor will continue filling in rock and disband work April 15. The barrier helps prevent salinity intrusion in the Delta, which can help preserve supplies in upstream reservoirs.



**Listening session held on drought Executive Order well permitting requirements (April 13):** DWR, California State Association of Counties and Rural County Representatives of California hosted a listening session webinar on the Drought Executive Order N-7-22, Action 9 related to drought well permitting requirements.

**New Save Our Water content (ongoing):** The Save Our Water campaign has rolled out new content across various multimedia platforms including social, digital and streaming platforms, out-of-home, and radio. The multilingual ads communicate the urgent need to save water and provide actionable steps Californians can take. Save Our Water is reaching Californians with helpful videos and tips for fixing leaks and reducing outdoor watering. Visit [www.saveourwater.com](http://www.saveourwater.com) for more.

**Curtailment adjustments (ongoing):** As drought conditions persist, the State Water Board continues to monitor six critical watersheds where worsening conditions may threaten water supplies. Curtailments remain in effect in the Delta watershed, two sub-watersheds of the Delta and in the Shasta River watershed. Based on current conditions and available forecasts, curtailments in the Russian River watershed are temporarily suspended through the end of April and curtailments in the Scott River watershed are temporarily suspended through April 22. Water Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change.

## Tribal / Local Actions

- **Tribal governments:** Tribal emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tule River Indian Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Wiyot Tribe.
- **Local government:** Local emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo.

## Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

**Drought impacts on agriculture:** The Public Policy Institute of California will host a virtual panel discussion on April 21 examining drought impacts on the state's agricultural sector and rural communities. Maria Gallegos Herrera, Central California regional director of external affairs for the Office of Governor Newsom, is among the speakers. Registration details are [here](#).

**Save Our Water local events:** The Save Our Water program will have a presence at events this week in San Bernardino (**April 20-24**) and Cloverdale (**April 21-24**) to reach Californians with information on how to reduce water use now and make permanent changes as part of the California lifestyle.

**Workshop for small suppliers:** DWR and the Water Board are planning the first of three workshops for small water suppliers on **April 20**. The workshop is tied to the new requirements of SB 552, a 2021 law that requires drought contingency planning. The agencies will be seeking input on the water shortage contingency plan template for suppliers with fewer than 3,000 connections and for schools.

## Key Data Points and Resources

- Daily Hydrological & Climate Information summary: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO>
- Statewide water conditions: [http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water\\_cond.html](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html)
- Daily Reservoir Storage Summary: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html>
- Water Year Forecast and Monthly Distribution: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=B120DIST>
- Monthly water supplier reports on water production and conservation: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/conservation\\_reporting.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/conservation_reporting.html)
- Latest groundwater conditions and information: <https://sgmatest.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://www.drought.ca.gov>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>
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